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6 MAY 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Operations

SUBJECT : Media Inquiry to Cuban Exile Journalist in Miami re Cuban Involvement in Watergate Case and Attitudes in Miami Area

1. This memorandum is for your information only.

2. On 7 May 1973 we were advised by Station WH/Miami that two employees of a Station WH/Miami proprietary had told the Station that one Rene VIERA Gonzalez, a Cuban exile journalist who writes for Diario Las Americas and owns the Westchester Mall Bookstore in Miami received a call in early May from one FNU GOTTLIEB who said he worked for the Times in Washington. (GOTTLIEB is believed to be Sanford GOTTLIEB, 11102 Brandywine St., Kensington, Md. who was formerly an employee of the National Committee on Sane Nuclear Policy". A pretext call to the Washington bureau of the New York Times verified that one "Sandy" Gottlieb was employed there.) GOTTLIEB asked VIERA what people in Miami were saying about the Watergate case and what participation the Cubans had in it. He specifically asked about the activities of Reinaldo PICO (former 2506 Brigade member), Orlando PIEDRA (former Chief of Cuban Bureau of Investigation in Batista Government), and Rolando MASFERRER (former Cuban Senator and self-admitted former Communist). He also asked if ITT had an office in Miami, whether Joaquin SANJENIS Perdomo (former Chief of a WH/Miami proprietary who was amicably terminated in 1972) and Juan A. PAULA (former WH/Miami proprietary employee and former Controller of Revolutionary Democratic Front-FRD-and currently employed by an OGC proprietary) were still in the Miami area. He was also interested in Edgardo BUTTARI, a Cuban born in West Tampa, Florida, a former Cuban Congressman and Minister of Commerce who is reportedly associated with Mr. Charles "Bebe" REBOZO. According to GOTTLIEB, BUTTARI was appointed as "political chief in the Republican Party".

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3. GOTTLIEB apparently has current information on the activities of the persons he mentioned; for example, he knew that Juan A. PAULA was involved in the jewelry business (PAULA and Antonio Felix GENOVA Corzo, a WH/Miami proprietary employee recently purchased a jewelry business) and he knew that Reinaldo PICO had resided in Venezuela and had recently returned to the United States. The phone conversation lasted about 45 minutes and GOTTLIEB told VIERA that if he came to Miami they would have lunch together.

4. VIERA does not know GOTTLIEB but talked to him because GOTTLIEB said he was recommended by Ernesto BETANCOURT who has resided in the Washington area for more than ten years. BETANCOURT was a former Agency asset and is currently Chief of Economic Planning and Budget, OAS. The conversation was initially in English but continued in Spanish. VIERA said he provided no information to GOTTLIEB on the basis that he is a Cuban exile and did not want to get involved in internal U.S. affairs. We do not know why GOTTLIEB was interested in Joaquin SANJENIS or Juan A. PAULA. (Attached are summary biographies of persons of interest to GOTTLIEB.)

5. On 7 May 1973 Marvin L. EVANS, Chief, MHMUTUAL, was briefed on the substance of the report from WH/Miami pertaining to Juan A. PAULA, who works for the MHMUTUAL proprietary, McKERCHER and AVANT which utilizes NORTHWEST MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC. as office space cover. Among other duties performed by the proprietary are the monthly checks sent to the dependents of imprisoned assets which are signed in true name by PAULA. EVANS was unaware that PAULA had purchased a new jewelry business in association with Antonio GENOVA; however, he feels that MHMUTUAL is protected and compartmented from the WH/Miami proprietary and he has the utmost confidence in the proprietary being able to field any questions. MHMUTUAL communication with the proprietary is by unlisted phone and a post office box. EVANS said that McKERCHER and AVANT could possibly be linked to NORTHWEST MANAGEMENT but the trail would end there. He feels that either proprietary could only be linked to the Agency by innuendo. (He did say that Howard HUNT was aware of MHMUTUAL when he served as C/CA/EUR.) EVANS feels secure as far as NORTHWEST MANAGEMENT and McKERCHER and AVANT are concerned.

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6. EVANS mentioned that the bona fide law firm occupying the other portion of the MHMUTUAL offices are the attorneys for John DEAN. (These lawyers are cleared and witting.) One of the lawyers told EVANS that DEAN will be the "biggest canary singer of the year". The common receptionist area is manned by MHMUTUAL employees who also monitor all telephone calls, incoming and outgoing for the other law firm. EVANS mentioned that there have been numerous calls from the media and outgoing overseas calls to such places as Japan and Europe.

7. EVANS will be traveling to Nassau and returning via Miami on 10 May 1973. He intends to talk with his proprietary people at that time on other MHMUTUAL business and will also contact COS, WH/Miami. (The COS has been alerted to expect a call from EVANS on 10 May 1973.)

James E. Flannery

James E. Flannery
Acting Chief
Western Hemisphere Division

cc: Director of Security

Attachments: A-F Biographic Summaries

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ATTACHMENT A

Rene VIERA Gonzalez

Reporter for Diario Las Americas; was speaker for Journalism in Exile at meeting held Flagler Theater, Miami June 1957.

Had also been head of Public Relations for Cuban National Bank. Date not given.

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ATTACHMENT B

Reinaldo PICO Ramon - formerly AMICE-31 (201-284658)

POA granted 14 October 1960 as PM asset. Member 2506 Brigade, captured Bay of Pigs. Member of Prisoners Commission sent by Castro to Miami to negotiate release of prisoners in exchange for mechanical equipment and other supplies needed by Cuba. Defected and refused to accompany other members of Prisoners Commission on their return to Cuba in July 1961. POA granted 15 June 1964 for use as CA/Prop asset. SGSWIRLED 3 October 1964 -- OA 4 February 1966. Amicably terminated 30 June 1968. As of July 1969 in Caracas, Venezuela. In December 1969 he was described by a source as "one does not know where the bluff begins and ends, what is true and what is lie".

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ATTACHMENT C

Orlando PIEDRA

Orlando Eleno PIEDRA-NEGUERLA (201-247879)

aka - Orlando Eleno NEGUERLA-PIEDRA
aka - Orlando PIEDRA
aka - O. ROCA

Born 18 December 1917, Havana, Cuba
Believed to be Cuban citizen currently

Was Chief of Cuban Bureau of Investigation in Batista Government. Told FBI June 1959 he was forced to leave Cuba upon fall of Batista. Reportedly head of anti-Castro group in Miami in June 1959. In Sept 59 reported to be friendly with Rolando MASFERRER Rojas, ex-Cuban senator and publisher. PIEDRA reportedly furnished with money by Batista.

During Batista regime was included with others as responsible officials considered directly involved in torture and killing of Cuban citizens. Resided in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. in February 1960. During Batista regime PIEDRA was in charge of all matters pertaining to gambling, rackets and contraband. In 1953 in Cuba PIEDRA was also involved in business of Chinese contraband.

No indication he ever used by Agency.

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ATTACHMENT D

Rolando Arcadio MASFERRER Rojas (201-42669)

Former Cuban senator and self-admitted former Communist. Quite active during early 60's in various anti-Castro activities in U.S. Recently served four and one-half year prison sentence received U.S. District Court for violation of U.S. neutrality laws.

No indication Headquarters has been in touch with subject at any time.

Born 1918 in Cuba; typifies worst elements in former regime of Batista. Name connotes ruthlessness, assassination, torture and extortion.

Still considers himself to be a Marxian Socialist; has been virulent critic of U.S. in past.

ATTACHMENT E

Edgar Anthony BUTTARI Puig (D.V.M.)

aka - Edgar A. BUTTARI (Doctor)
aka - Edgardo BUTTARI y Puig (201-276771)
Photo available

While information in his file does not indicate any past or present CIA contact, there is unsourced information in the WH/COG card file which shows that BUTTARI was in touch with Frank Bender (Gerard Droller) in Miami in the Spring of 1960, apparently in relation to BUTTARI's involvement with the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FRD). Currently BUTTARI is involved in many business ventures in South Florida and is reportedly associated with Charles "Bebe" Rebozo socially and in business.

Edgardo BUTTARI was born 14 August 1909 (also given 1914) at West Tampa, Florida, the son of a Cuban who fought in the Cuban Independence War. Appointed Cuban Inspector General Instructor of the Ministry of State in 1933. He later became Under Secretary of Labor. In 1938 he returned to Cuba and served as Secretary of Commerce until 1940. He later was appointed Minister of the Cuban Foreign Service. Appointed Minister of Commerce by Batista in 1942, he held that post until 1944 when he resigned to run for the House of Representatives, Habana. He remained in the House of Representatives until 1952.

BUTTARI arrived in the U.S. in March 1960 to reside in Miami, Florida. He became involved with the Revolutionary Democratic Front.

During his first term as Minister of Commerce in 1938 he was responsible for the arrest of several American representatives of large lard exporters in the U.S. (Swift, Armour, etc.) for increasing prices. At the same time he endeavored to put forward legislation of nationalistic tendencies, warning to "Yankee Imperialism", and seemed somewhat unfriendly to the U.S. He later changed and in 1938 became more anxious to cooperate with the U.S., apparently having gotten over his openly anti-American feelings. However, he did not appear to be dependable according to Embassy reports. He has been described as astute, clever, intelligent but slippery. He